

1 **Toxoplasma gondii** Toc75 functions in import of stromal but not
2 peripheral apicoplast proteins

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19 apicoplast, complex plastid.

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24
25 **Synopsis:** Protein targeting to plastids and mitochondria of parasites relies on an elaborate system of
26 signals and machinery. We describe *Toxoplasma* and *Plasmodium* Toc75 and Sam50 proteins.
27 TgToc75 is found to mediate stromal but not peripheral apicoplast protein import and to be essential for
28 parasite growth and plastid maintenance

29
30 **Abbreviations:** ATc (Anhydrous tetracycline), POTRA (polypeptide-transport-associated), OMP85
31 (outer membrane proteins of 85kDa), TIC/TOC (translocons of the inner/outer chloroplast membrane),
32 SIMM (second innermost membrane), PPC (periplastid compartment), Sam50 (sorting and assembly
33 machinery of 50kDa).

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22 apicoplast, complex plastid.

23
24 Abstract

25
26 Apicomplexa are unicellular parasites
27 causing important human and animal
28 diseases, including malaria and
29 toxoplasmosis. Most of these pathogens
30 possess a relict but essential plastid, the
31 apicoplast. The apicoplast was acquired by
32 secondary endosymbiosis between a red
33 alga and a flagellated eukaryotic protist. As
34 a result the apicoplast is surrounded by
35 four membranes. This complex structure
36 necessitates a system of transport signals
37 and translocons allowing nuclear encoded
38 proteins to find their way to specific
39 apicoplast sub-compartments. Previous
40 studies identified translocons traversing
41 two of the four apicoplast membranes. Here
42 we provide functional support for the role of
43 an apicomplexan Toc75 homolog in
44 apicoplast protein transport. We identify
45 two apicomplexan genes encoding Toc75
46 and Sam50, both members of the Omp85
47 protein superfamily. We localize the
48 respective proteins to the apicoplast and
49 the mitochondrion of *Toxoplasma* and
50 *Plasmodium*. We show that the *Toxoplasma*
51 Toc75 is essential for parasite growth and
52 that its depletion results in a rapid defect in
53 the import of apicoplast stromal proteins
54 while the import of proteins of the outer
55 compartments is affected only as the
56 secondary consequence of organelle loss.
57 These observations along with the
58 homology of the protein to chloroplast
59 Toc75 suggest a role in transport through
60 the second innermost membrane.

61
62 Introduction

63
64 Apicomplexan parasites are the cause of
65 important human and animal diseases,
66 including malaria and toxoplasmosis. Most of
67 these pathogens possess a relict plastid named
68 the apicoplast. While the apicoplast is no
69 longer photosynthetic, it has important
70 metabolic roles and supplies the parasite with
71 fatty acids, isoprenoids, and heme (1, 2). The
72 apicoplast is the product of secondary
73 endosymbiosis whereby a single celled red
74 alga was engulfed by a flagellated eukaryote
75 and a stable endosymbiotic relation ensued.
76 This event gave rise to a large and diverse
77 group of photosynthetic and non-photosynthetic
78 eukaryotes referred to by some authors as the
79 chromalveolates (3, 4). The apicoplast and the
80 plastids of other chromalveolates are
81 surrounded by four membranes reflecting their
82 complex endosymbiotic origin. The innermost
83 membrane and second innermost membrane
84 (SIMM) originate from the algal primary plastid.
85 The next membrane out, bounding the
86 periplastid compartment, originates from the
87 algal plasma-membrane and the outermost
88 membrane is believed to be derived from the
89 host endomembrane system (reviewed in (5)).
90 Key to the conversion of the algal
91 endosymbiont into a plastid was the transfer of
92 the symbiont's genes to the nucleus of the
93 host, allowing far reaching transcriptional and
94 translational control by the host. This transfer of
95 genetic material from the endosymbiont to the
96 host is only possible upon coevolving systems
97 that allow the import of host-translated proteins
98 into the endosymbiont. In the case of the
99 apicoplast this requires translocation across its
100 four delineating membranes to reach the
101
102
103

104 stroma. Apicomplexan parasites target large
 105 numbers of nuclear encoded proteins to the
 106 apicoplast. 10% of the *Plasmodium falciparum*
 107 proteome is predicted to be transported to the
 108 apicoplast, underscoring the importance of this
 109 trafficking pathway (6). Our current model
 110 (Figure 1A) assumes this pathway to start with
 111 signal sequence guided entry into the ER
 112 lumen, likely via the Sec61 translocon.
 113 Trafficking from the ER to and across the outer
 114 apicoplast membrane remains poorly
 115 understood, but potentially depends on signals
 116 typically involved in endocytosis or autophagy
 117 (7-9) and may take place by more than one
 118 route (10, 11). Translocation across the
 119 periplastid membrane is mediated by
 120 machinery evolved from the endosymbiont's
 121 ER-associated protein degradation (ERAD)
 122 system (12-16). Finally, based on their
 123 evolutionary origin in chloroplast membranes, it
 124 is believed that homologs of the translocons of
 125 the inner and outer chloroplast membrane
 126 (TIC/TOC) function in translocation of proteins
 127 through the apicoplast's two innermost
 128 membranes. Experimental evidence supports
 129 the role of the TIC complex in apicoplast
 130 protein import (17, 18) but is lacking in the case
 131 of the putative TOC machinery.

132
 133 Most stromal proteins possess a bipartite
 134 signal, comprised of a signal and a transit
 135 peptide (6). Upon translocation to the ER
 136 lumen the N-terminal signal peptide portion of
 137 the leader is cleaved off, exposing the transit
 138 peptide that is required for further trafficking
 139 (19). In diatoms, a group likely descended from
 140 the same endosymbiotic event as
 141 Apicomplexa, subplastidal targeting depends
 142 on the first amino acid (position +1) of the
 143 transit peptide (20, 21). An aromatic amino acid
 144 at this position targets the protein through the
 145 SIMM *en route* to the stroma; otherwise, the
 146 proteins are retained in the periplastid space.
 147 Incidentally, an aromatic residue is also
 148 required for import through the outer
 149 membrane of primary plastids of red algae (20,
 150 22, 23) and of glaucocystophytes (24). In the
 151 primary plastids of glaucocystophytes,
 152 recognition of the aromatic residue depends on
 153 an Omp85 family protein that functions as the
 154 translocation pore of their primitive TOC
 155 machinery (25).

156 Abundance of aromatic residues at position +1
 157 was reported for the transit peptides of
 158 additional Chromalveolates (26, 27). These
 159 studies include *Toxoplasma* and *Plasmodium*
 160 spp where enrichment of phenylalanine was
 161 reported at this position (27). Nevertheless the
 162 role of this amino acid was so far not supported
 163 experimentally. The targeting sequence of a
 164 *Toxoplasma* apicoplast stromal protein,
 165 ferredoxin-NADP⁺ reductase (FNR), was
 166 studied in detail (28). An extensive series of
 167 deletions within the N-terminal sequence
 168 suggested the presence of redundant signals
 169 and did not implicate a particular residue at

170 position +1 (28). Whether this is true for all
 171 apicoplast stromal proteins remains unknown.

172
 173 Omp85 (for outer membrane protein of 85 kDa)
 174 is a protein that catalyzes insertion and
 175 assembly of β-barrel proteins into the outer
 176 membrane of gram-negative bacteria. The
 177 more widely distributed superfamily of Omp85-
 178 related proteins shares a conserved domain
 179 organization that includes N-terminal
 180 polypeptide-transport-associated (POTRA)
 181 repeats and a C-terminal transmembrane β-
 182 barrel. Three main eukaryotic representatives
 183 are well described: the mitochondrial sorting
 184 and assembly machinery of 50 kDa
 185 (Sam50/Tob55) and the chloroplast proteins
 186 Toc75-III and Toc75-V (29, 30). Like its
 187 bacterial ancestor, Sam50/Tob55 recognizes
 188 mitochondrial outer membrane proteins in the
 189 intermembrane space after they fully
 190 translocate across the outer membrane and
 191 catalyzes their insertion into it (31, 32). Toc75V
 192 (or Oep80 for outer envelope protein 80) is
 193 hypothesized to perform a similar role in the
 194 outer chloroplast membrane (33-35). Toc75III
 195 functions as the channel of the TOC translocon
 196 in the outer chloroplast membrane that allows
 197 proteins to fully translocate through it (36).
 198 In diatoms, an Omp85-like protein, PtOmp85,
 199 was identified that possesses a bipartite plastid
 200 targeting signal and two POTRA domains (37).
 201 This protein is localized to the diatom complex
 202 plastid and both its N and C terminal domain
 203 face the periplastid compartment (37). Using
 204 the sequence of PtOmp85, Bullmann and co-
 205 workers were able to identify putative
 206 apicomplexan homologs (37, 38), and this
 207 assignment gained further support from
 208 Hirakawa and coworkers (39). These homologs
 209 possess features supporting their Omp85
 210 affiliation such as a signal sequence, the typical
 211 N-terminal POTRA signature, and a C-terminus
 212 that likely forms a beta-barrel. However, their
 213 putative role in apicoplast protein import has
 214 not been evaluated experimentally.

215 Here we seek to gain new insights into the
 216 pathways by which apicoplast proteins traverse
 217 the SIMM. We analyze the targeting sequences
 218 of a large group of experimentally confirmed
 219 apicoplast proteins (summarized in (40)), to
 220 assess the abundance of an aromatic residue
 221 that may be recognized by an Omp85. We
 222 confirm the identity and localization of Omp85
 223 proteins from both *Plasmodium falciparum* and
 224 *Toxoplasma gondii* and demonstrate that the
 225 *Toxoplasma* Toc75 functions in the import of
 226 proteins into the stroma of the apicoplast.
 227 Finally, we show that import of peripheral
 228 apicoplast protein is not dependent on
 229 TgToc75 activity, which is consistent with the
 230 potential assignment of TgToc75 to the second
 231 innermost of the four apicoplast membranes.

Results

232
 233 Sequence analysis reveals moderate
 234 enrichment of aromatic residues at position +1

237 of stromal proteins and the presence of two
 238 *omp85*-like proteins in apicomplexan genomes
 239

240 We used sequence analysis to identify signals
 241 and machinery potentially involved in traversal
 242 of the apicoplast SIMM membrane. We have
 243 recently substantially expanded the repertoire
 244 of experimentally confirmed apicoplast proteins
 245 in *Toxoplasma gondii* (40) now counting 47
 246 proteins (Table S1). We utilized the online
 247 prediction algorithm SignalP
 248 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP-3.0/>) to
 249 predict the signal peptide cleavage site of all 47
 250 proteins. Using SignalP 3.0 server we were
 251 able to define with high certainty the amino acid
 252 at position +1 of the transit peptide of 29 of
 253 these proteins (Table S1 shows the predictions
 254 obtained with both SignalP servers: 3.0 and
 255 4.1). Figure 1B shows the distribution of +1
 256 residue abundance in (i) 22 stromal and (ii) 7
 257 peripheral proteins. We found that 27% of
 258 stromal proteins have an aromatic residue
 259 (mostly a phenylalanine) at the predicted
 260 position +1 while none of the non-stromal
 261 proteins feature an aromatic amino acid at this
 262 position (Table S1, Figure 1B).

263 Next, we revisited the repertoire of potential
 264 apicomplexan Omp85-like encoding genes.
 265 Using jackhammer to mine the NCBI non-
 266 redundant database, and subsequent
 267 reciprocal BLAST searches against the
 268 EupathDB, we identified two Omp85-like
 269 proteins in *T. gondii* (TGME49_205570,
 270 TGME49_272390), *P. falciparum*
 271 (PF3D7_0608310, PF3D7_1234600), and
 272 several other apicomplexan species (Table 1).
 273 To determine the respective affiliation of these
 274 genes, we selected representative species
 275 across the eukaryotic tree of life and
 276 reconstructed a majority rule consensus tree
 277 from 1,000 bootstrap trees (Figure 2; see also
 278 maximum likelihood tree Figure S1A). The tree
 279 shows a clear split into Sam50 and Toc75
 280 clades supported by a bootstrap of 100. We
 281 classified sequences TGME49_205570 and
 282 PF3D7_0608310 as Sam50 (herein named
 283 TgSam50 and PfSam50, respectively) and
 284 sequence TGME49_272390 as Toc75 (named
 285 TgToc75). PF3D7_1234600 could not be
 286 resolved with certainty in this analysis, and thus
 287 was not included in the reconstruction of this
 288 tree, however subsequent analysis included
 289 PF3D7_1234600 (Figure S1B) and used the
 290 POTRA region only (Figure S1C) to construct a
 291 maximum likelihood tree which shows that
 292 PF3D7_1234600 is affiliated with the Toc75
 293 homologs from Chromalveolates (herein
 294 named PfToc75). The presence of two POTRA
 295 domains in PfToc75 and TgToc75 and a
 296 predicted apicoplast targeting signal in PfToc75
 297 support this affiliation.

298

299 *Mutagenesis of a phenylalanine at position +1
 300 of the transit peptide of the stromal protein ACP
 301 to alanine results in peripheral retention*

302

303

304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370

The putative role of the aromatic residue at position +1 of the stromal protein ACP in trafficking was analyzed via mutagenesis. YFP-tagged ACP with the wild type sequence (ACP_{WT}YFP) and YFP-tagged ACP with the phenylalanine replaced to an alanine (ACP_{F/A}YFP) were transiently transfected and their localization was assessed by high-resolution microscopy. While ACP_{WT}YFP showed precise co-localization with the stromal marker CPN60 (12), ACP_{F/A}YFP showed very little overlap with it (Figure 1C). Similarly, the signal from ACP_{WT}YFP did not overlap with signal from the HA-tagged periplastid marker ATrx2 (40), while ACP_{F/A}YFP showed substantial co-localization with this periplastid marker (Figure 1C). The signal peptide cleavage prediction by SignalP 3.0 differs from that obtained by SignalP 4.1. While both suggest the phenylalanine at position +1 with high likelihood, the latter predicts an upstream tyrosine to be at this position. We generated YFP-tagged ACP with the tyrosine replaced to an alanine (ACP_{Y/A}YFP) and examined its localization upon transient expression by high-resolution microscopy. Similar to ACP_{WT}YFP, ACP_{Y/A}YFP showed full co-localization with the stromal marker CPN60 and little overlap with the periplastid marker ATrx2 (Figure 1C).

*Localization of the *T. gondii* and *P. falciparum* Omp85 proteins to the apicoplast and mitochondrion supports their assignments as Toc75 and Sam50*

The assignment of Omp85 proteins to their respective families as determined by the phylogeny was tested by localization studies. Both the first 78, and the first 95 N-terminal amino acids derived from both TgToc75 (Figure S2) and PfToc75 (Figure 3A) target to a punctate structure within the parasite that co-localized with the *Toxoplasma* or *Plasmodium* apicoplast markers FNR-RFP or ACP respectively. We conclude that these N-termini serve in apicoplast localization of these proteins. Moreover, full-length TgToc75 also co-localizes with the apicoplast marker FNR-RFP further supporting the Toc75 affiliation (Figure 3A). High resolution microscopy and co-staining with the stromal marker CPN60 suggested TgToc75 localization is peripheral to the apicoplast stroma (Figure 3B). In line with the expected peripheral localization of a Toc75 homolog. We next assessed the localization of the second Omp85 homologue identified in each of the species. A mitochondrial targeting signal was predicted for PfSam50 but not for TgSam50 (Table S1). The first 60 amino acids of PfSam50 targeted GFP to a ribbon-like structure within *P. falciparum* parasites that co-localized with the signal obtained through the use of MitoTracker (Figure 3C). Likewise, full-length TgSam50 co-localized with the mitochondrial marker Hsp60-RFP (Figure 3C).

Finally, co-transfection of both full-length HA-tagged TgToc75 and full-length Ty-tagged TgSam50 in *T. gondii* reveals two distinct patterns of fluorescence with minimal signal overlap. This demonstrates the existence of two Omp85-like proteins in *T. gondii* in the two distinct endosymbiotic compartments; the apicoplast and the mitochondrion (Figure 3D). Taken together, our localization experiments are entirely consistent with the classification proposed by phylogenetic analysis.

TgToc75 is required for parasite growth and apicoplast maintenance

To test whether TgToc75 functions in apicoplast protein import we generated a mutant in which its expression level can be manipulated. First we constructed the *TATiΔKu80iToc75pi* line: in this parasite the TgToc75 open reading frame is separated from its native promoter by a tetracycline-regulatable promoter cassette (40). This parasite line was established using cosmid (PSBL491) recombineering (41, 42) (Figure S3). Our analysis of this line suggested that TgToc75 is essential for parasite growth (Figure S3), and that its down regulation results in apicoplast demise and in a stromal protein modification defect (Figure S3), as expected from interference in the apicoplast protein import machinery (12, 18, 40). However, this mutant proved unstable resulting in loss of regulation. We thus utilized recombineering to construct the *TATiΔKu80iToc75pr* line: in this line we replaced the TgToc75 native promoter with the tetracycline-regulatable promoter cassette (Figure 4A). This line is stable and was used for the remainder of the analyses. We found down regulation of TgToc75 (Figure 4B) to result in a growth defect as observed by plaque assay (Figure 4C). Additionally, TgToc75 depletion resulted in loss of the apicoplast evident by loss of plastid DNA, which was quantified via quantitative PCR, as well as by loss of immunofluorescence staining of the apicoplast stromal protein CPN60 (Figure 4D, E). Organelle loss was gradual starting with 28% loss at 24 hours of Toc75 down regulation and reaching 99.5% loss by 96 hours.

Loss of TgToc75 results in loss of import with more rapid impact on stromal when compared to peripheral apicoplast proteins

To examine apicoplast protein import under TgToc75 down regulation we followed the maturation of the plastid stromal protein ACP (12, 17, 18, 40). Typically two bands can be observed for this protein by Western blot, a larger precursor protein *en route* to the plastid, and a mature protein lacking the leader peptide due to the activity of stromal signal peptidase (18, 19, 43, 44). By following endogenously tagged ACP (40) we detected accumulation of un-cleaved precursor starting at 48 hours after Toc75 down regulation (Figure 5A).

Interestingly, the precursor of the protein encoded by TGME49_001270, an outer apicoplast membrane protein (40), does not accumulate even as late as 72 hours (Figure 5B). To assess whether this difference is specific to TgToc75 depletion we conducted control experiments with a regulated mutant of the periplastid protein 1 (PPP1). PPP1 is a periplastid compartment resident protein that plays an essential role in apicoplast protein import and it is likely required for the translocation of proteins across the periplastid membrane (40). Here we show that upon down regulation of PPP1 both the stromal ACP and the outer membrane protein encoded by TGME49_001270 show precursor accumulation ((40) and Figure 5C,D). We conclude that proteins pass through the PPP1 associated translocon first and the Toc75 translocon second and that the outer translocon can act and assemble (at least for a limited time) independently of Toc75.

To test whether these observations hold true for other stromal and non-stromal proteins we examined two additional markers, the stromal protein LytB (45) and the periplastid protein PPP1. In order to follow protein maturation in real time we measured maturation of LytB and PPP1 expressed transiently at different time points after TgToc75 down regulation. In agreement with the above observations, newly synthesized stromal LytB, shows precursor accumulation starting as early as 24 hours after TgToc75 down regulation (Figure 5E), while the newly synthesized periplastid protein PPP1 shows precursor accumulation only late into suppression (72 hours, Figure 5F) when many apicoplasts are lost due to secondary effects (Figure 4D, E).

Discussion

The acquisition of secondary plastids went hand in hand with the development of appropriate machineries for protein import (3). The complex nature of these plastids requires a set of signals allowing precursor protein trafficking to their final sub-organellar destination. An elevated abundance of aromatic amino acids, particularly phenylalanine, at position +1 downstream of the predicted signal peptide cleavage site, was reported in several chromalveolates and was proposed to be a functional feature of the transit peptide in these organisms (26, 27). An aromatic signature residue, most frequently a phenylalanine (but also tyrosine and tryptophan), at position +1 of the transit peptide, was proposed to serve as forward signaling from the periplastid space through the two innermost membranes in several groups or organisms with secondary plastids. A similar requirement is found for import into the primary plastids of red algae (20, 22, 23, 46). Gould and coworkers suggested a model according to which all proteins targeted to a complex plastid of red origin gain entry to the periplastid

505 compartment by a common indiscriminate
 506 mechanism (46). We analyzed 47 *T. gondii*
 507 sequences of proteins experimentally shown to
 508 target to the apicoplast periphery or the
 509 apicoplast stroma. Of those we could assess
 510 29 proteins with high certainty. This analysis
 511 does not align with the notion of a uniform
 512 mechanism. On one hand we show enrichment
 513 of an aromatic residue at position +1 in the
 514 putative transit peptides of proteins that cross
 515 all 4 apicoplast membranes (Table S1, Figure
 516 1B). Further, our mutagenesis experiments
 517 support the idea that this aromatic +1 residue
 518 plays a role in the targeting of the stromal ACP
 519 (Figure 1C). However, on the other hand, not
 520 all stromal proteins obey this rule. In fact, the
 521 majority (73%) of stromal proteins were not
 522 predicted to have a +1 aromatic residue,
 523 suggesting alternative signals may be involved
 524 in SIMM traversal. Indeed, in the case of FNR,
 525 for which most computational analyzes ((28) +
 526 TableS1) do not predict an aromatic residue at
 527 position +1, other signals were implicated in
 528 stromal localization (28). We also observed the
 529 lack of aromatic residues at position +1 of
 530 peripheral proteins, however the repertoire of
 531 well documented residents of these outer
 532 compartments is still limited (only 7 predicted
 533 with confidence). Overall our observations are
 534 consistent with the previously proposed
 535 (20,21,27) broader conservation of the +1
 536 aromatic signal as one of the mechanisms for
 537 stromal import but also suggest alternative, yet
 538 to be characterized, signals in Apicomplexa.
 539

540 The secondary plastid of Apicomplexa and
 541 related taxa was shaped by contributions from
 542 three organisms: a cyanobacterium, a red alga
 543 and a flagellated heterotrophic eukaryote. The
 544 current model of protein import suggests that
 545 each membrane is traversed with the help of
 546 machinery derived from its organism of origin.
 547 This model gradually gained support with the
 548 identification and functional characterization of
 549 TIC components (17, 18) and of ERAD/SELMA
 550 components (12, 13, 16). The confirmation of
 551 the TOC link in this model was slow to emerge,
 552 most likely due to significant primary sequence
 553 divergence of the TOC components in
 554 organisms with complex plastids. An important
 555 breakthrough was made by the identification of
 556 an Omp85-like protein in the diatom
 557 *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, for which
 558 phylogeny, subcellular localization and
 559 electrophysiology support affiliation with Toc75
 560 (37). Here we provide experimental support for
 561 the general conservation of this transport
 562 pathway by localization of the apicomplexan
 563 homologs of PtToc75 to the apicoplast (Figure
 564 3) and by functional analysis of TgToc75
 565 (Figure 4 and 5).

566 Aside from TgToc75/PtToc75, our search for
 567 members of the polypeptide-transporting β-
 568 barrel protein superfamily in the genomes of
 569 Apicomplexa identified only one additional
 570 gene in each species, which encodes a

571 Sam50/Tob55 homolog. We supported this
 572 assignment by localizing these proteins to the
 573 mitochondrion (Figure 3B). TgToc75/PtToc75
 574 thus likely represent the only plastid Omp85s in
 575 these parasites, an observation that joins a
 576 growing line of evidence for a single Toc75 in
 577 the red lineage of plastids. The genome of the
 578 red alga *C. merolae* encodes a single Toc75
 579 (47). Bullmann and coworkers similarly report a
 580 single Toc75 in their analysis of the genomes
 581 of the diatoms *P. tricornutum* and *Thalassiosira*
 582 *pseudonana*, and the haptophyte *Emiliania*
 583 *huxleyi* (37). In contrast, higher plants possess
 584 two functional Toc75 homologs:
 585 Toc75V/Oep80, which mediates assembly of
 586 proteins into the outer membrane of the
 587 chloroplast (35), and Toc75-III (36), which is
 588 the central component of the TOC machinery.
 589 At least two plastidial Toc75 proteins were
 590 identified in other members of the green
 591 lineage, and in all cases at least one ortholog
 592 of Toc75V/Oep85 was identified (39, 47).
 593 Whether the Toc75 found in the red lineage
 594 serves the roles of both of its green algal
 595 counterparts is unclear at this point.
 596

597 Others (37) and we herein hypothesize that
 598 TgToc75 plays a role in precursor transit
 599 through the SIMM. To test TgToc75's
 600 involvement in apicoplast protein import we
 601 generated a conditional TgToc75 mutant
 602 parasite cell using our recently described
 603 tetracycline-based promoter replacement
 604 system (40). We demonstrated TgToc75 to be
 605 a firm requirement for apicoplast protein import,
 606 apicoplast maintenance, and parasite growth
 607 consistent with the hypothesis that this protein
 608 is an essential component of the **apicoplast**
 609 **protein import machinery**.
 610 In agreement with a role for TgToc75 in stromal
 611 protein import, we observed a defect in
 612 precursor processing for the endogenously
 613 YFP-tagged stromal protein ACP (Figure 5A).
 614 The slow onset of this defect may reflect an
 615 overall slow impact of Toc75 mutants as
 616 previously noted in primary chloroplast (48), or
 617 could result from the long half-life of mature
 618 ACP as noted before (18, 40). We therefore
 619 tested an independent stromal protein (LytB) by
 620 transient transfection to follow the protein
 621 synthesized at various time points after Toc75
 622 down regulation was ongoing. This assay
 623 showed impaired precursor processing as early
 624 as 24h after TgToc75 down regulation (Figure
 625 5E) and before secondary defects due to loss
 626 of the organelle (Figure 4D,E). Overall the
 627 TgToc75 mutant produces a phenotype similar
 628 to previously studied inducible mutants in
 629 components of the apicoplast protein import
 630 machinery (12, 17, 18, 40) supporting the
 631 proposed role of TgToc75 in mediating **stromal**
 632 precursor protein import.
 633 Interestingly, unlike the stromal proteins, only a
 634 mild processing defect was observed for outer
 635 compartment proteins (Figure 5B,F). This is
 636 specific to TgToc75 depletion, as processing is
 637 blocked for an outer compartment protein upon

disruption of the periplastid import machinery (Figure 5D). These experiments support a model under which proteins of the apicoplast outer compartments (periplastid and outer membrane compartments) are not dependent on TgToc75 for their transport into the organelle while stromal proteins (ACP and LytB) are. **Taken together with the phylogenetic analyses these observations support TgToc75 as a component of the apicoplast TOC channel, however direct experimental demonstration for its activity at the SIMM is yet to be established.**

Finally, seeing that outer compartment protein processing occurs under depletion of TgToc75, our findings support the previous predictions (15) of the existence of at least two apicoplast transit peptide peptidases: one in the lumen and one in the outer compartments upstream of the TOC machinery.

While we provide functional support for the role of Toc75 in protein import into complex plastids of red origin, we were unable to identify other components of the TOC machinery in the genomes of Apicomplexa by using BLAST searches, in line with previous reports (38, 47). Most striking is the apparent absence of homologs for the receptor components Toc159/Toc120/Toc132 and Toc34/Toc33 (49) that are found in primary plastids of both the green and the red lineage (47, 50). Interestingly, a similar finding was recently reported for the secondary plastid of green origin of *B. natans* (39). Hirakawa and coworkers suggest an explanation whereby unlike primary plastids where the TOC machinery has to distinguish plastid proteins from all other cytoplasmic and mitochondrial proteins, the TOC machinery of secondary plastids interacts with a more focused repertoire of precursors that was already screened by previous translocation machineries. **This idea is supported by the observation that transit peptides of secondary plastid apparently lack features that differentiate between mitochondria and plastid targeting in organisms with primary plastids (27).** In agreement with this model it was proposed before that in membranes with a primitive, reduced TOC machinery, the Omp85-like component is involved in precursor selection that is based on the presence of an aromatic residue (25). **While it is clear that apicoplast stromal import could not be explained by this simple model ((28), TableS1), our finding provides grounds for further investigation of the potential role of such a pathway in the trafficking of at least some of the stromal proteins.**

One of the soluble components that interact with the TOC machinery is Tic22 (51). TgTic22 was identified and functionally characterized using a similar genetic system (17). TgTic22 down regulation results in a phenotype similar to our observations here, whereby the maturation of a stromal marker (FNR-DHFR-cMyc) was reduced at 24h after addition of ATc (17), supporting their potential cooperation in a common pathway. Interestingly, Toc75 and Tic22 are the sole TOC components found so far in secondary red plastids. They are also the only TOC components for which a clear homology with their cyanobacterial ancestors was demonstrated (51, 52).

Materials and methods

Search for Omp85 homologs

The non-redundant protein database was downloaded from NCBI (<ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/db/FASTA/>) and screened with jackhmmer (53) using AtToc75-III as query for members of the Omp85 superfamily. Then *Toxoplasma gondii* ME49 and *Plasmodium falciparum* 3D7 genomes were screened (i) with BLAST for homologs of *Toxoplasma* and *Plasmodium* sequences detected by jackhmmer and (ii) with hmmsearch (53) for proteins with at least one of the following PFAM (54) domains: Surface_Ag_VNR (PF07244), Bac_surface_Ag (PF01103), POTRA_2 (PF08479), ShlB (PF03865). Finally the resulting *Plasmodium* and *Toxoplasma* Omp85 homologs were used as query for BLASTs of EupathDB (<http://eupathdb.org/eupathdb/>) to identify the respective homologs in other Apicomplexan genomes.

Phylogenetic analysis

A multiple sequence consensus alignment was constructed as described in (55) from a subset of Sam50 and Toc75 homologs. From this alignment a maximum likelihood phylogeny was reconstructed with RAxML (56) using the WAG model (57) and gamma-distributed rate heterogeneity. Branch support values were derived from 1,000 rapid bootstrap trees and a majority rule consensus tree was constructed from them. Note that the older gene model for TgToc75, TGME49_072390, predicts a longer protein, which includes the extreme C-terminal part of the β-barrel (missing in the new gene model: TGME49_272390). The alignment and phylogeny were done with the longer older gene model. Similarly, an older gene model of PfSam50, PFF0410w, spans two new predicted genes: PF3D7_0608300/0608310. We experimentally confirmed the older gene model (see supplementary text) new accession numbers were produced for the confirmed sequences (TgToc75 - KT271755; PfSam50 - KT271756). The alignment and phylogeny were performed using the new and shorter version PF3D7_0608310, containing the conserved domain.

Constructs:

Toxoplasma gondii:

Total RNA was extracted from *T. gondii* (strain RH) using Trizol (Invitrogen). Overlapping cDNA fragments encoding the entire TgToc75

772 and TgSam50 genes were amplified from total
 773 RNA using the SuperScript III One-Step RT-
 774 PCR kit (Invitrogen) and primers shown in
 775 Table S2. All resulting PCR products were
 776 cloned using the ZeroBlunt PCR cloning kit
 777 (Invitrogen) and sequenced (GATC, Konstanz).
 778 TgToc75⁷⁸, TgToc75⁹⁵: Fragments encoding
 779 the noted amino acids were amplified from
 780 cDNA (primers in Table S2), and inserted into
 781 the TUB8mycGFPMyoATy *T. gondii* expression
 782 vector resulting in expression of these N-
 783 terminal amino acids directly fused to a Ty tag.
 784 Using EcoRI/Nsil allowed for an in frame C-
 785 terminal Ty tag. TgToc75^{full-Ty}: A full-length
 786 cDNA version (based on the older gene model
 787 - TGME49_072390) of the *TgToc75* gene
 788 (removing an internal EcoRI restriction site)
 789 was synthesized by Geneart (Regensburg) and
 790 cloned into the TUB8mycGFPMyoATy vector
 791 as above. TgToc75^{full-HA}. TgToc75^{full-Ty} was
 792 digested with Nsil/Pacl and a 3x hemagglutinin
 793 (HA) tag was inserted, having been generated
 794 by amplification (primers in Table S2).
 795 TgSam50^{full-HA}: A full-length cDNA version of
 796 the *TgSam50* gene was synthesized by
 797 Geneart (Regensburg) and cloned into the
 798 TgToc75^{full-HA} vector using EcoRI/Nsil.
 799

800 *Inducible knock-down cosmids:*
 801 pGDT7S4 (42) was used as templates to PCR
 802 amplify a 4Kb promoter modification cassette
 803 (primers in Table S2) containing a gentamycin
 804 resistance marker for selection in bacteria, a
 805 DHFR marker for the subsequent selection in
 806 *T. gondii* and the T7S4 promoter to be inserted
 807 upstream of TgToc75 start site (*pi*) or to
 808 replace the TgToc75 endogenous promoter
 809 sequence (*pr*). This cassette was used for
 810 PSBL491 recombineering as done before (41).
 811

812 *Site directed mutagenesis:*
 813 To change the residues at position +1 of the
 814 transit peptide of ACP within plasmid
 815 pTUB8ACP_{WT}YFP, primers ACP_{FIA}mutR or
 816 ACP_{YIA}mutF/R (Table S2) were used in a site-
 817 directed mutagenesis reaction using the
 818 commercial QuikChange II Site-Directed
 819 Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagen) according to
 820 manufacturer's instructions.
 821

822 *Plasmodium falciparum:*
 823 Total RNA was extracted from *P. falciparum*
 824 (3D7) using Trizol (Invitrogen). PfToc75⁷⁸,
 825 PfToc⁹⁵, PfSam50⁶⁰: Fragments encoding the
 826 noted amino acids were amplified from total
 827 RNA (primers in Table S2), and inserted into
 828 the Xhol/AvrII sites of pARL2-GFP. All final
 829 constructs were verified by restriction digest
 830 and automated sequencing (GATC, Konstanz).
 831

832 *Cell culture and transfection of *T. gondii* and *P. falciparum*:*
 833 Cultivation and transfections of *T. gondii* (strain
 834 RH delta hxgprt, a kind gift of Markus Meissner,
 835 and our TATi/ΔKu80strain (40)) in human
 836 foreskin fibroblasts and *P. falciparum* (3D7) in
 837 human erythrocytes was carried out under
 838 standard conditions. *P. falciparum* transfectants
 839 were selected with 2.5nM WR99210 (a kind gift
 840 of Jacobus Pharmaceuticals). Promoter
 841 replacement or insertion in TATi/ΔKu80strain
 842 was selected with 1μM Pyrimethamin as
 843 described in (42). FNR^{RFP} and Hsp60^{RFP}
 844 constructs were a kind gift of Markus Meissner.
 845

846

847 *Plaque assay*
 848 Fresh monolayers of HFF were infected with
 849 parasites in the presence or absence of 1.5
 850 μg/ml ATc for 7 days. Fixation, staining and
 851 visualization were performed as previously
 852 described (40).
 853

854 *RT-PCR and qPCR*
 855 RNA was prepared from cultures grown without
 856 ATc or with ATc for 24 and 72 hours using
 857 RNeasy® (QIAGEN) and reverse transcriptase
 858 reaction was performed using SuperScript® III
 859 First-Strand Synthesis (Invitrogen) (both
 860 according to the manufacturer's instructions).
 861 300ng of the resulting template was used for
 862 qPCR reaction using SYBR Green Mix (Bio-
 863 Rad) and primers TOC75RTPCRf2 and
 864 TOC75RTPCRr2. Copy number control was
 865 performed using cosmid PSBL491 as template.
 866 Genomic DNA was prepared from cultures
 867 grown without ATc or with ATc for 24 and 72
 868 hours using DNeasy® (QIAGEN). 100ng of the
 869 resulting template was used for qPCR reaction
 870 using SYBR Green Mix (Bio-Rad) and primers
 871 Apg-qPCR-F/R for apicoplast and UPRT-
 872 qPCR-F/R for nuclear genomes. A copy
 873 number control was performed using specific
 874 plasmids as described in (58).
 875

876

877 *IFA and imaging*
 878 *T. gondii:* Immunofluorescence was carried out
 879 on infected HFF cells seeded onto glass cover
 880 slips. Cells were fixed with 4%
 881 paraformaldehyde/PBS (15 min, RT),
 882 permeabilised with 0.5% T-X-100/PBS (15 min,
 883 RT), blocked with 5% BSA/PBS (30 min, RT),
 884 incubated with primary antibodies diluted in 5%
 885 BSA/PBS (1h, RT), washed three times in PBS,
 886 incubated with suitable fluorescent-conjugated
 887 secondary antibodies (1h, RT), washed three
 888 times in PBS, incubated with 50 ng/ml Hoechst
 889 33258/PBS (5 min, RT), washed in distilled
 890 water and cover slips were mounted onto glass
 891 slides using Fluoromount (SouthernBiotech).
 892 *P. falciparum:* Cells were fixed in 4%
 893 Paraformaldehyde/0.00075% Glutaraldehyde
 894 (37°C, 30 min), quenched in 125 mM
 895 Glycine/PBS, Hoechst 33258 (Molecular
 896 probes) was used at 50ng/ml for fixed parasites
 897 or 10 mg/ml for live parasites.
 898 Images were acquired on Carl Zeiss Axio
 899 Observer inverse epifluorescence microscope
 900 (Figure3, FigureS2). Individual images were
 901 imported into ImageJ64 (version 1.46r,
 902 available at <http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij>), converted
 903 to 8-bit greyscale, subjected to background
 904 subtraction, and overlaid. Image in FigureS3
 905 was taken using a Delta Vision microscope as
 906 described (12). Antibodies and concentrations

- 906 used were: rabbit anti-HA (Sigma-Aldrich, 973
 907 1:50); mouse anti-Ty tag (a kind gift of Keith 974
 908 Gull, 1:20); anti-ACP (a kind gift of Geoff 975
 909 McFadden, 1:500), rabbit anti-CPN60 (1:500), 976
 910 Cy2 goat anti-rabbit, Cy3 goat anti-Rabbit, Cy2 977
 911 goat anti-mouse, Cy3 goat anti-mouse (all 978
 912 Jackson Immuno Research Laboratories, 979
 913 1:2000).
- 914 For superresolution structural illumination 981
 915 microscopy (SR-SIM), stacks of 30-40 images 982
 916 were taken with increments of 0.091 μ m in a 983
 917 Zeiss Elyra Superresolution microscope (Jena, 984
 918 Germany) with a 63x oil immersion objective 985
 919 and an immersion oil with a refractive index of 986
 920 1.518 (Zeiss, Germany). Superresolution 987
 921 images were generated using ZEN software 988
 922 (version Zen 2012 SP1, Zeiss, Germany) and 989
 923 processed into their final form using FIJI 990
 924 software (59).
- 925
- 926 Apicoplast protein import assay and Western 993
 927 blot analyses:
- 928 Western blot of steady-state levels of proteins: 995
 929 clonal parasite lines grown in the presence or 996
 930 absence of ATc and collected (1500g, 10min, 997
 931 RT), lysed in sample buffer, separated by SDS- 998
 932 PAGE and blotted using anti-GFP (ROCHE) 999
 933 antibody for ACP-YFP and anti-HA antibody 1000
 934 (SIGMA) for TGME49_001270.
- 935 Western blot of transiently expressed proteins: 1002
 936 TAT*i*_ΔKu80*i*Toc75pr parasites were grown in 1003
 937 ATc for a given period of time, then transiently 1004
 938 transfected with pBT_LytB or pTUB8-PPP1- 1005
 939 HA, and let to grow for an additional 24h to 1006
 940 reach the total desired time of down-regulation 1007
 941 (for example for 72 hours +ATc time point, 1008
 942 parasites were grown for 48 hours in ATc, 1009
 943 transfected and then grown for an additional 1010
 944 24h in ATc). Transfected and treated parasites 1011
 945 were collected, separated by SDS-PAGE and 1012
 946 blotted using anti-HA or anti-Ty antibodies. 1013
 947 Pulse/chase analysis was performed as 1014
 948 described before (12, 18, 40).
- 949
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- 966
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1 **Figure legends**
 2

3 **Figure 1 Machinery and signals involved in the translocation of precursor protein through the apicoplast
 4 membranes.** (A) Schematic representation of the translocation machinery responsible for protein import
 5 through the four membranes of the apicoplast. Endomembrane system shown in grey, former red algal
 6 cytosol in blue and former primary plastid in pink. According to the current model of transport apicoplast
 7 precursor proteins are first co-translationally transported into the ER via the SEC61 complex courtesy of
 8 their signal peptide (SP). In the ER lumen, the SP is cleaved by a signal peptide peptidase (SPP). The
 9 now exposed transit peptide (TP) signals for transport from the ER to the apicoplast. Next, the
 10 translocation through ERAD/SELMA is likely accompanied by transient ubiquitination (60). The protein
 11 then moves through the TOC and TIC complexes and its TP is cleaved in the stroma. **Compartmental
 12 markers used in this study are depicted at the upper right corner of their corresponding compartment.**
 13 (B) Abundance of residues at position +1 of 29 proteins experimentally confirmed to localize to the
 14 apicoplast stroma (i) or peripheral compartments (ii) based on SP cleavage prediction by SignalP
 15 (detailed analysis is provided in TableS1). (C) High-resolution microscopy analysis of the localization of
 16 transiently expressed ACP-YFP with the wild type phenylalanine and tyrosine at the two predicted
 17 potential position +1 (i) with tyrosine to alanine mutation (ii) and with phenylalanine to alanine mutation
 18 (iii). Full SP sequence is shown with arrows showing both potential +1 residues in the wild type, or the
 19 position of mutation to alanine in the mutants. The upper panels show co-staining with the stromal
 20 marker CPN60 and the lower panels show co-staining with the PPC marker ATx2 (40).

21 **Figure 2 Phylogenetic classification of Omp85-like proteins in *T. gondii* and *P. falciparum*.**

22 A majority rule consensus tree of selected Sam50 and Toc75 homologs was constructed with RAxML
 23 from 1,000 bootstrap trees. The corresponding maximum likelihood (ML) tree is given in Figure S1A.
 24 The proteins are referenced by their ID (GenBank, or EupathDB); species abbreviations are as follows:
 25 Anig (*Aspergillus niger* ATCC 1015), Atha (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), Bden (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
 26 JAM81), Cmer (*Cyanidioschyzon merolae* strain 10D), Cowc (*Capsaspora owczarzaki* ATCC 30864),
 27 Crei (*Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*), Dmel (*Drosophila melanogaster*), Esil (*Ectocarpus siliculosus*), Gsul
 28 (*Galdieria sulphuraria*), Hvul (*Hydra vulgaris*), Mocc (*Metaseiulus occidentalis*), Otau (*Ostreococcus
 29 tauri*), Pfal (*Plasmodium falciparum* 3D7), Pmar (*Perkinsus marinus* ATCC 50983), Ppat (*Physcomitrella
 30 patens*), Ptri (*Phaeodactylum tricornutum* CCAP 1055/1), Rirr (*Rhizophagus irregularis* DAOM
 31 197198w), Rnor (*Rattus norvegicus*), Scer (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288c), Skow (*Saccoglossus
 32 kowalevskii*), Spur (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*), Tgon (*Toxoplasma gondii* ME49), Tura (*Triticum
 33 urartu*), Vcar (*Volvox carteri* f. *nagariensis*). **The full alignments used for this analysis are provided in
 34 Figure S1.**

35 **Figure 3. Localization of the omp85-like proteins supports their affiliation as Toc75 and Sam50 in
 36 Apicomplexa.** (A) Fluorescence microscopy analysis of *P. falciparum* parasites expressing ectopic GFP
 37 fusions of the 78 (upper panel) and 95 (middle panels) N-terminal amino acids of PfToc75, and of *T. gondii*
 38 parasites expressing ectopic HA-tagged full-length TgToc75 (lower panel). Co-staining is done
 39 with ACP and FNR-RFP for *P. falciparum* and *T. gondii* respectively. (B) **High-resolution microscopy of
 40 transiently expressed full-length Ty tagged TgToc75 and its localization with respect to the stromal
 41 marker CPN60.** (C) *P. falciparum* parasite expressing ectopic GFP fusion of the 60 N-terminal amino
 42 acids of PfSam50 (green channel) co-stained with mito-tracker (red channel) (upper panel); *T. gondii*
 43 parasites expressing ectopic Ty-tagged TgSam50 (green channel) co-stained with the mitochondrial
 44 marker HSP60-RFP (red channel) (lower panel). (D) *T. gondii* parasites co-expressing ectopic HA-
 45 tagged TgToc75 (red channel) and Ty-tagged TgSam50 (green channel).

46 **Figure 4. TgToc75 is essential for parasite growth and apicoplast maintenance.** (A) Schematic
 47 representation of the manipulation of the TgToc75 locus to replace the native promoter with the
 48 tetracycline inducible promoter. Black boxes – exons; asterisk – stop codon; empty boxes – minigenes;
 49 solid lines – TgToc75 locus non-coding sequences; dashed line – genomic sequence; grey thick line –
 50 backbone of cosmid or of modification cassette. (B) Plaque assays performed with the
 51 *TATiΔKu80iToc75pr* parasite line in the absence (-) or presence (+) of ATc. (C) qRT-PCR analysis with
 52 RNA extracts from *TATiΔKu80iToc75pr* grown in the absence of ATc (-ATc) or upon down regulation of
 53 TgToc75 for 24 (+24h) and 72 (+72h) hours. TgToc75 mRNA levels decline swiftly upon ATc treatment.
 54 Y-axis shows the percentage of wild type copy numbers. (D) *TATiΔKu80iToc75pr* parasites were grown
 55 in ATc as indicated and plastids were counted based on immunofluorescence signal obtained via
 56 staining with anti-CPN60 antibody in 100 four-parasites vacuoles for each sample. Y-axis shows
 57 percentage of 4-parasites-vacuoles. (E) Apicoplast loss was also evaluated using qPCR comparing
 58 nuclear genome and apicoplast genome copy numbers. The data was normalized such that copy
 59 number from each genome from no ATc treatment is 1. In support of apicoplast loss the proportion of
 60 apicoplast copy number after TgToc75 down-regulation for 72 hours is on average 0.17 while genomic
 61 copy number average proportion is 0.78.

62 **Figure 5. TgToc75 down regulation results in deficient import of stromal but not PPC or outer
 63 membrane compartment apicoplast proteins.** We performed western blot analysis to follow the
 64

1 maturation of apicoplast proteins under the down regulation of apicoplast import components. The
 2 steady state expression of endogenously YFP-tagged ACP (40) (A) and of endogenously HA-tagged
 3 TGME49_001270 (B) was monitored at each time point of *TgToc75* down regulation showing maturation
 4 defect in ACP but not TGME49_001270 at 72 hours. Western blot analysis following the maturation of
 5 the same makers (YFP-tagged ACP (C) and endogenously HA-tagged TGME49_001270 (D)), but this
 6 time under down regulation of the PPC import component *TgPPP1*, shows maturation defect for both at
 7 48 hours. We then performed western blot analysis following the maturation of the stromal protein LytB-
 8 Ty (E) and the periplastid protein PPP1 (F). In this experiment LytB or PPP1 are transiently expressed
 9 for 24h at each time point of *TgToc75* down regulation. This analysis reveals a block in LytB maturation
 10 that is first detected at 24 hours and complete by 48 hours. In contrast, maturation defect of PPP1 is
 11 only observed at 72 hours. Loading control performed with anti-alpha-tubulin antibody is shown for each
 12 blot.
 13

14 **Figure S1 – Phylogenetic classification of Omp85-like proteins in *T. gondii* and *P. falciparum*.**

15 Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenies were reconstructed with RAxML. Branch support values were
 16 determined from 1,000 bootstrap trees. Sam50 and Toc75 clades are marked by dark and light gray
 17 areas, respectively. The sequence labels are colored according to their taxonomy (color code given in
 18 Figure 2). (A) The ML tree was reconstructed from the same set of sequences as used for the majority
 19 rule consensus tree in Figure 2. (B) This ML tree was reconstructed with the same sequences as (A)
 20 while including PfToc75. (C) From the multiple sequence consensus alignment as used for the trees
 21 above the N-terminal part containing the POTRA domains was excised and a ML tree reconstructed. (D)
 22 The full alignments used for these phylogenies (also available in other formats upon request).
 23

24 **Figure S2 – The N-terminal domain of *TgToc75* is sufficient for apicoplast localization.** Fluorescence
 25 microscopy analysis of parasites expressing ectopic Ty-tagged fusions of the 78 (upper panel) and 95
 26 (lower panels) N-terminal amino acids of TgToc75. Note that the Ty tags are directly fused to the 78 or
 27 95 amino acids with no spacer sequences.
 28

29 **Figure S3 – *TgToc75* is essential for parasite growth and apicoplast biogenesis.** (A) Schematic
 30 representation of the manipulation of the *TgToc75* locus to insert the tetracycline inducible promoter
 31 between the native promoter and the ORF. (B) Plaque assays performed with the *TATiΔKu80iToc75pi*
 32 parasite line in the absence (-) or presence (+) of ATc which correspond to TgToc75 constitutive levels
 33 or down-regulation respectively. (C) Fluorescence microscopy of *TATiΔKu80iToc75pi* grown in absence
 34 of ATc (-ATc) or upon down-regulation of TgToc75 for 72 hours (+ATc 72h) stained with the apicoplast
 35 marker CPN60 (12) showing loss of apicoplast in most parasites at this time point. (D) Pulse-chase
 36 (P/C) analysis of protein synthesis and post-translational lipoylation of apicoplast (PDH-E2) and
 37 mitochondrial (mito-E2) proteins. Parasites were metabolically labeled as detailed in (12, 18, 40) and
 38 lipoylated proteins were isolated by immunoprecipitation using a specific antibody. Lipoylation of PDH-
 39 E2 is lost upon ATc treatment. Bands labeled with an asterisk likely represent lipoylated host cell
 40 proteins
 41

42 **Table 1 – GenelDs and summary of targeting prediction for apicomplexan Omp85-like protein encoding**
 43 **genes**
 44

45 **Table S1 – Prediction of signal peptide cleavage** and amino acid at position +1 of putative transit
 46 peptide for 47 experimentally confirmed apicoplast proteins.
 47
 48

49 **Table S2 – Primers used in this study**
 50

1 **List of supplemental materials:**

Material included	Main text associate	Significance
Text + Figure S1	Result paragraph 1	Provides detailed explanation on sequence identification experimental confirmation and phylogenetic analysis allowing expert reader to critically follow the process. Provides the alignments used for the phylogenetic analyses.
Table S1	Figure 1B	Raw data of results summarized in the graphs. Reader can extract more information: the specific gene IDs used and the scores for each data point.
Table S2	Materials and methods	List of all primers used for genetic manipulations described in the text. Technical details for reader who wishes to perform similar manipulations.
Figure S2	Figure 3	Allows the reader to compare the localization pattern observed with the N-terminal fusion to the full-length that appears in the main text. In some organisms N-terminal fusion is more common. Showing that both generate the same localization validates this approach.
Figure S3	Figure 4	Provide evidence to an important difference between two approaches of genetic manipulation that are commonly used in <i>T. gondii</i> . Provides an additional independent assessment of Toc75's role in apicoplast biogenesis.

3 **Supplementary text**

4 **Sequence analysis of *omp85*-like proteins in Apicomplexa genomes**

5 We used jackhmmer to mine the NCBI non-redundant database with *Arabidopsis thaliana* Toc75-III as
6 query sequence. This search revealed two Omp85-like protein coding genes in *T. gondii* ME49
7 (TGME49_205570, TGME49_272390) and in several *Plasmodium* spp (Table 1). Subsequent Omp85-
8 related pHMM searches in the PFAM database, and a BLAST search using the above detected
9 *Toxoplasma* and *Plasmodium* Omp85 proteins unraveled two Omp85-like proteins also in *P. falciparum*
10 3D7 (PF3D7_0608310 and PF3D7_1234600). Reciprocal BLASTs against the apicomplexan databases
11 in EupathDB (<http://eupathdb.org/eupathdb/>) identified further homologs of both proteins encoded by
12 several species (Table 1).

13 The predicted gene models for TgToc75 and PfToc75 as found on EupathDB were changed since we
14 first identified these genes: TgToc75 older version, TGME49_072390 includes an extreme C-terminal
15 domain, which is part of the predicted β-barrel. This C-terminal domain is missing in the new version
16 (TGME49_272390). Our RT-PCR and localization of full-length protein supports the old gene models.
17 Similarly, PfToc75's previous model (PFF0410w) predicts one continuous gene, which is now predicted
18 to be two separate genes (PF3D7_0608300/0608310). Our RT-PCR confirms the old model. Prediction
19 of organelle targeting signals as shown in table 1 used the older experimentally confirmed gene models.
20 User comments were added to the respective gene pages in ToxoDB and PlasmoDB.

21 To determine the affiliations of the four identified Omp85-like sequences from *Plasmodium falciparum*
22 and *Toxoplasma gondii*, we selected a subset of species across the eukaryotic tree of life and
23 generated a sequence alignment as described in (55). A majority rule consensus tree was then
24 constructed from 1,000 bootstrap trees based on this alignment (Figure 2). A maximum likelihood (ML)
25 phylogeny was reconstructed from the same dataset with RAxML. Branch support values were
26 determined from 1,000 bootstrap trees (Figure S1A). We then added the second *Plasmodium*
27 falciparum Omp85 sequence that was not originally identified via the jackhmmer search
28 (PF3D7_1234600) to the dataset and reconstructed another ML tree (Figure S1B). However, the
29 classification of this sequence is ambiguous. We set out to clarify its affiliation by constructing a
30 phylogenetic tree of the excised POTRA region, which is more conserved than the β-barrel region and
31 thus more suitable for the tree reconstruction. This tree shows that PF3D7_1234600 is located within
32 the sub-tree containing the other Toc75 homologs from Chromalveolates (Figure 2B). Furthermore, the
33 bootstrap between the Sam50 and Toc75 clades is reliable with a value of 88. In our alignment we could
34 identify two POTRA domains in PfToc75 (residues 118-192, 193-454) and TgToc75 (189-336, 337-451),
35 which are in agreement with fold recognition results except that the HHpred webserver (61) does not
36 detect the 1st β-strand of PfToc75's 2nd POTRA domain (399-454). In agreement with the assignment
37 based on the phylogenetic trees PfToc75 possesses a predicted apicoplast-targeting signal and for
38 PfSam50 a mitochondrial targeting sequence was predicted (Table 1).

39 **Supplementary references**

- 1 1. Flinner N, Ellenrieder L, Stiller SB, Becker T, Schleiff E, Mirus O. Mdm10 is an ancient
2 eukaryotic porin co-occurring with the ERMES complex. Biochim Biophys Acta 2013;1833(12):3314-
3 3325.
4 2. Soding J, Biegert A, Lupas AN. The HHpred interactive server for protein homology detection
5 and structure prediction. Nucleic Acids Res 2005;33(Web Server issue):W244-248.
6

Figure 1

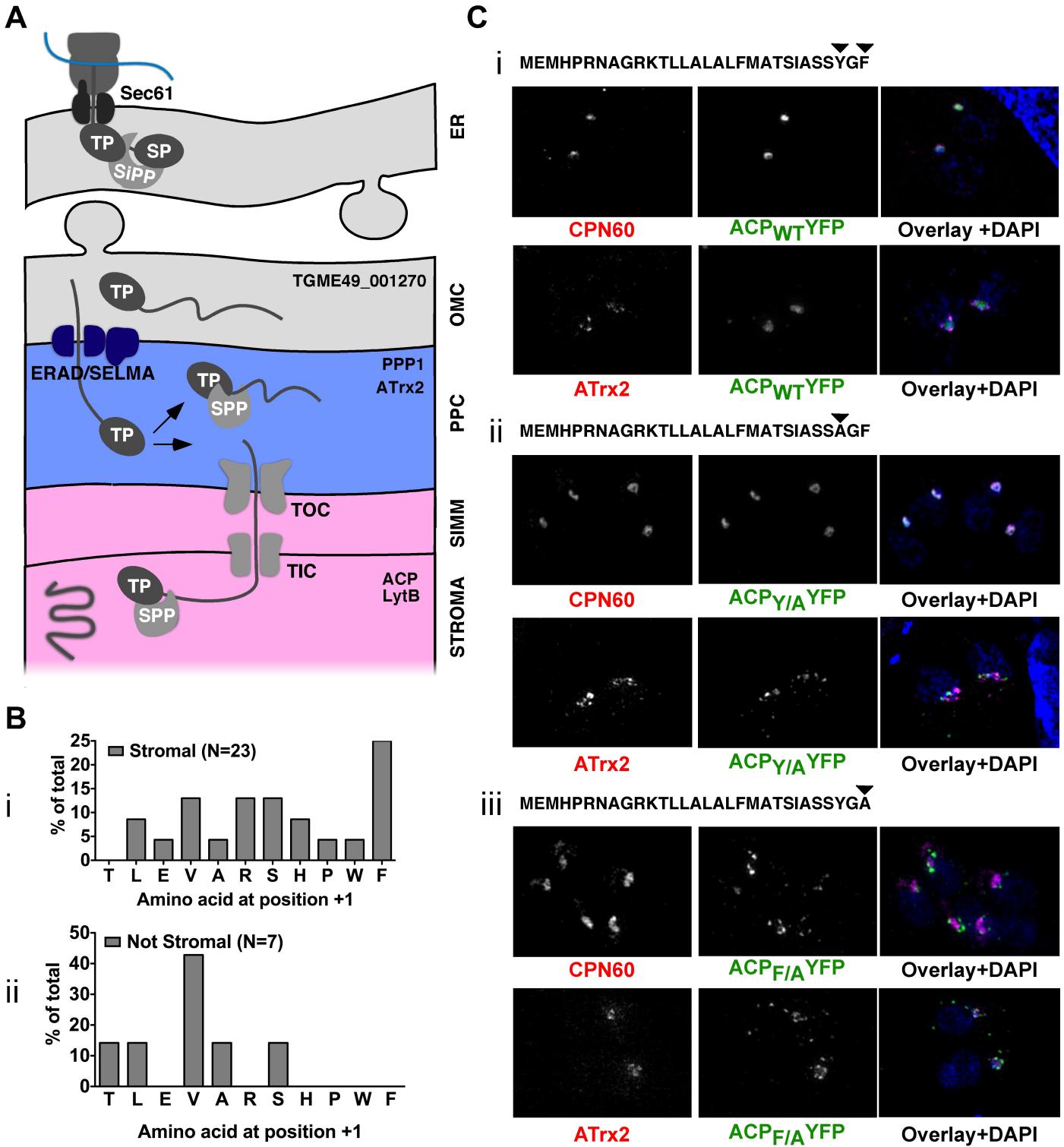


Figure 2

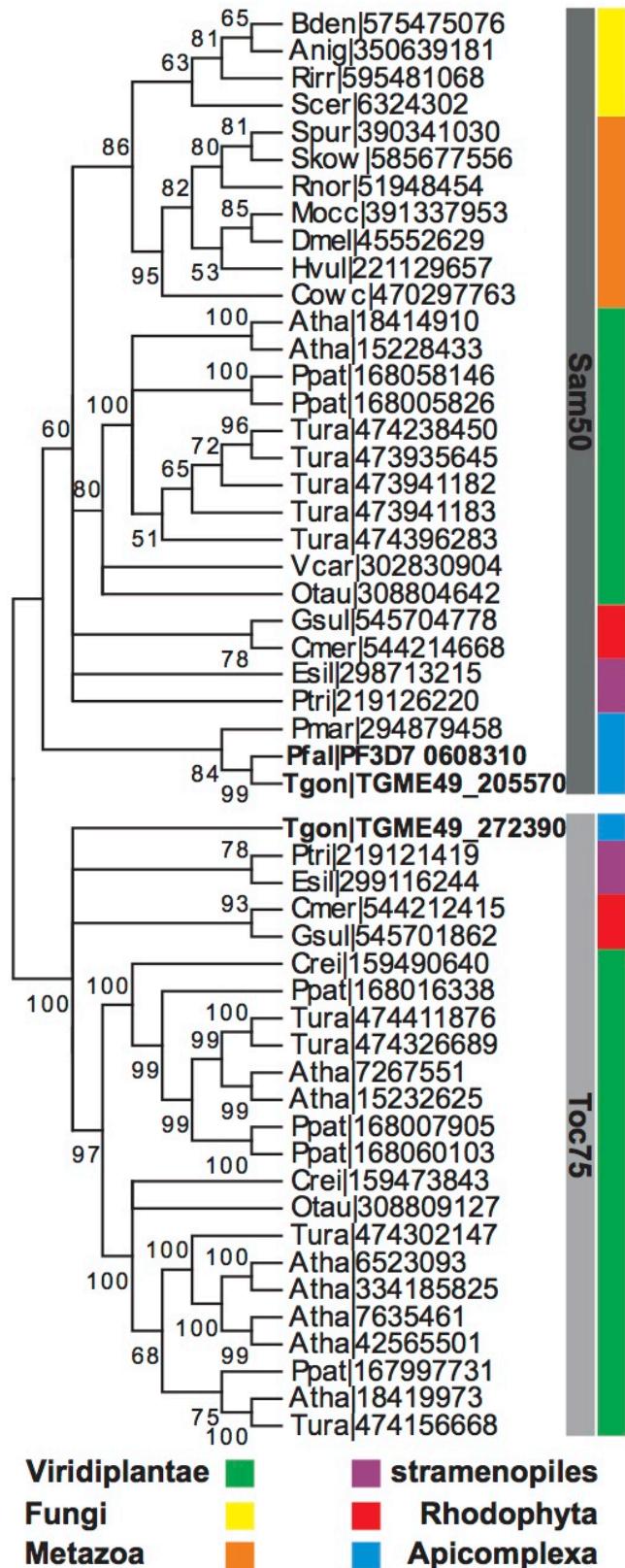


Figure 3

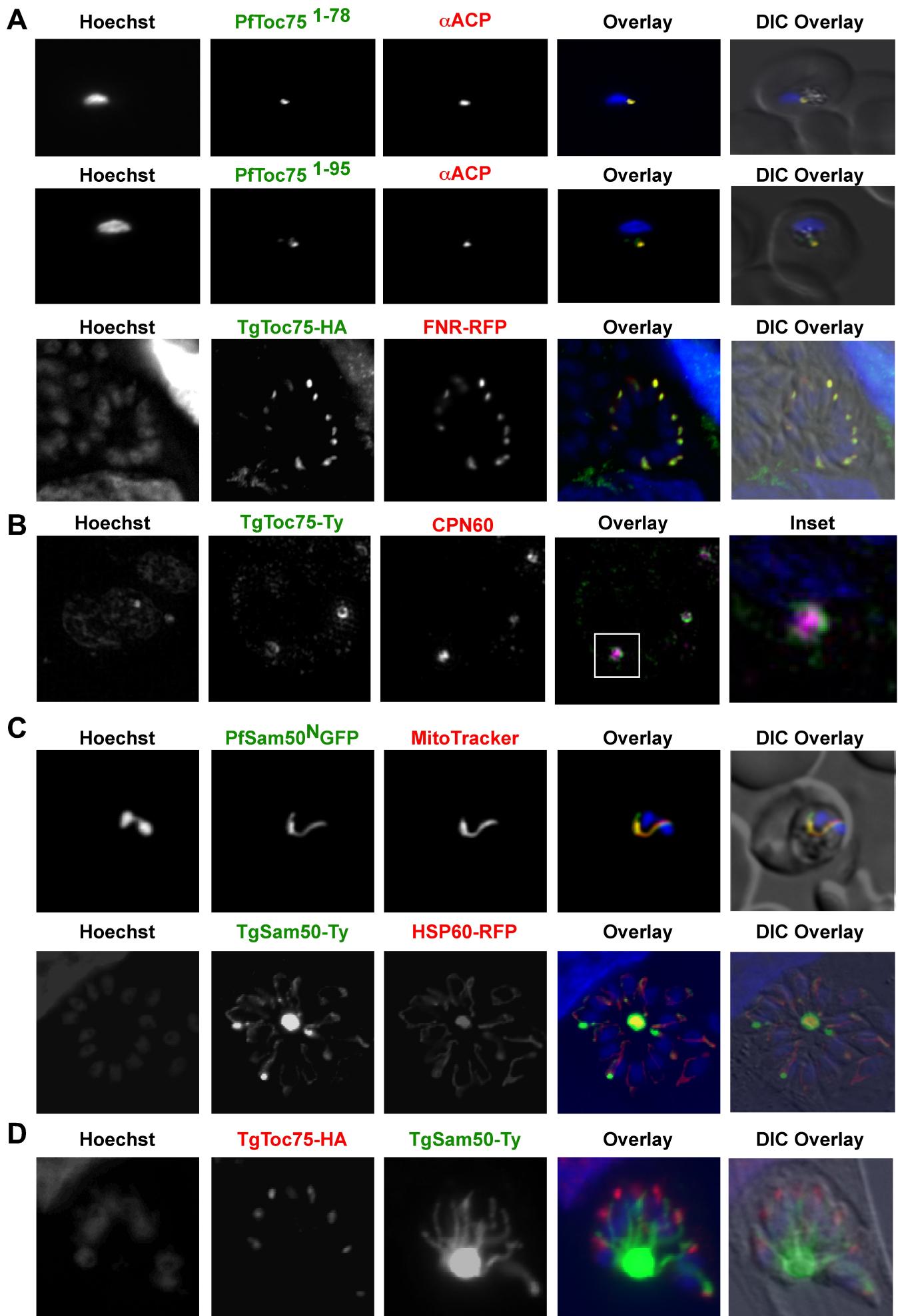


Figure 4

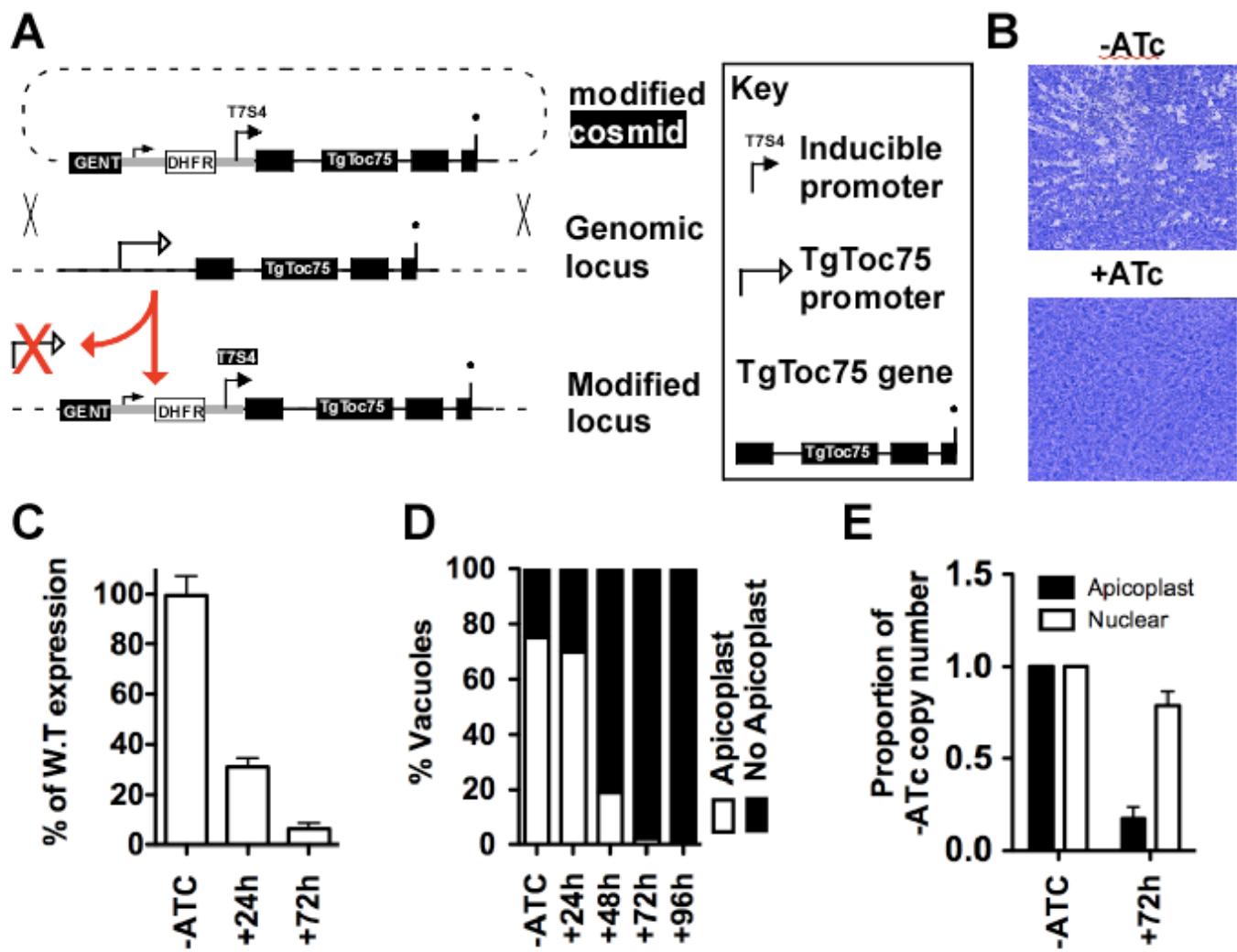
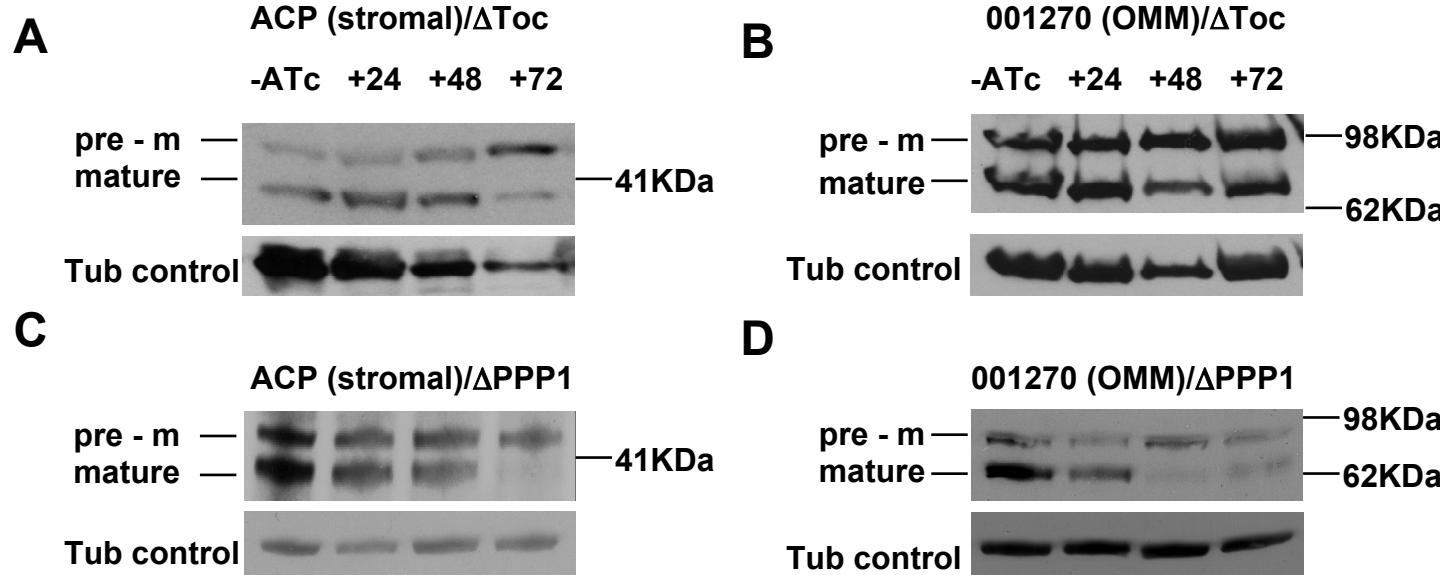


Figure 5

Steady state protein level



Transient expression at real time

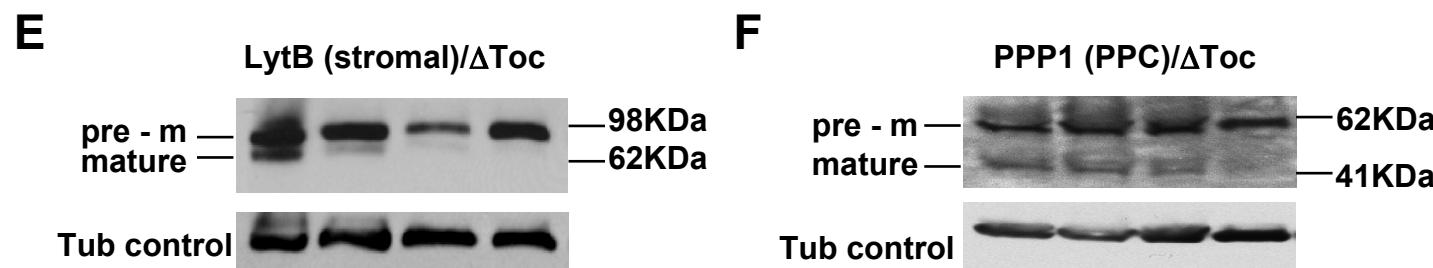


Figure S1A

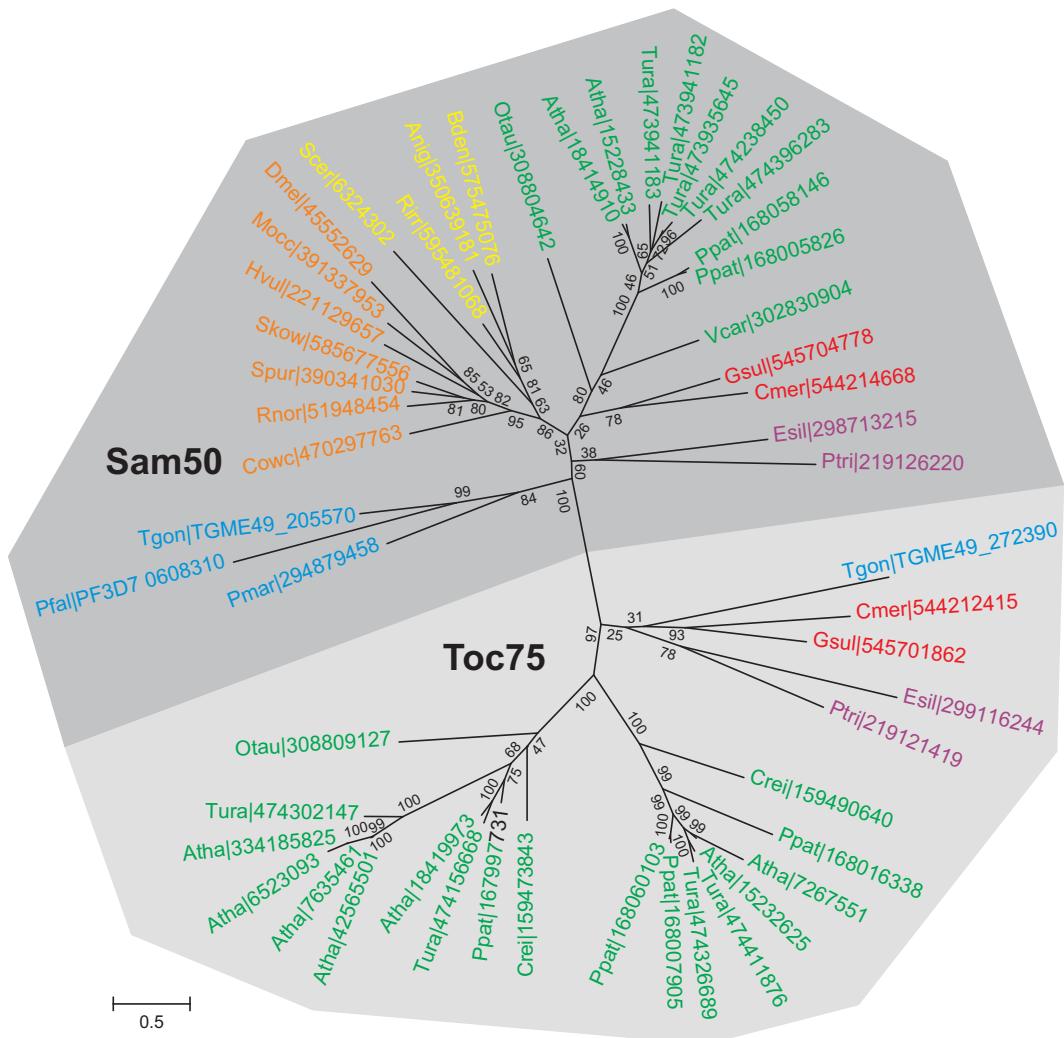


Figure S1B

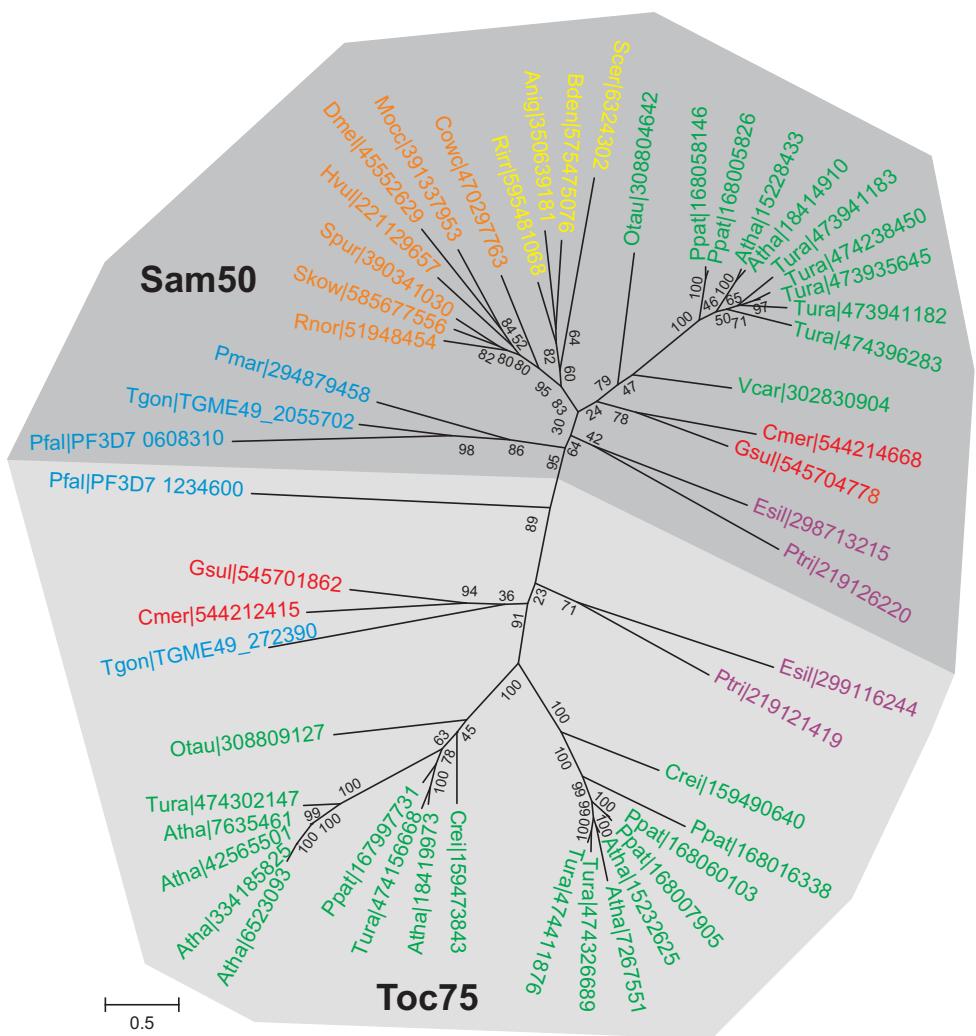


Figure S1C

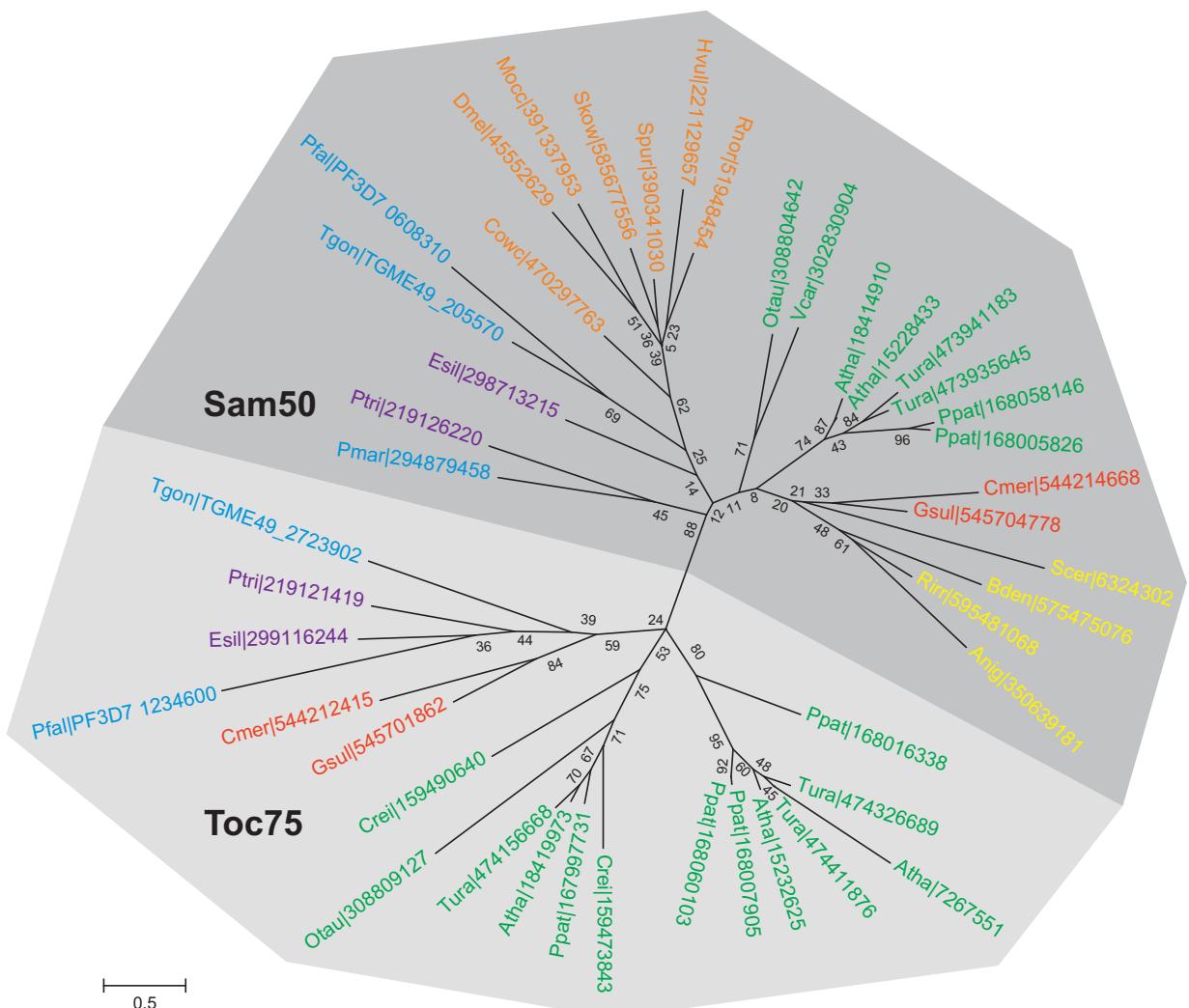


Figure S2

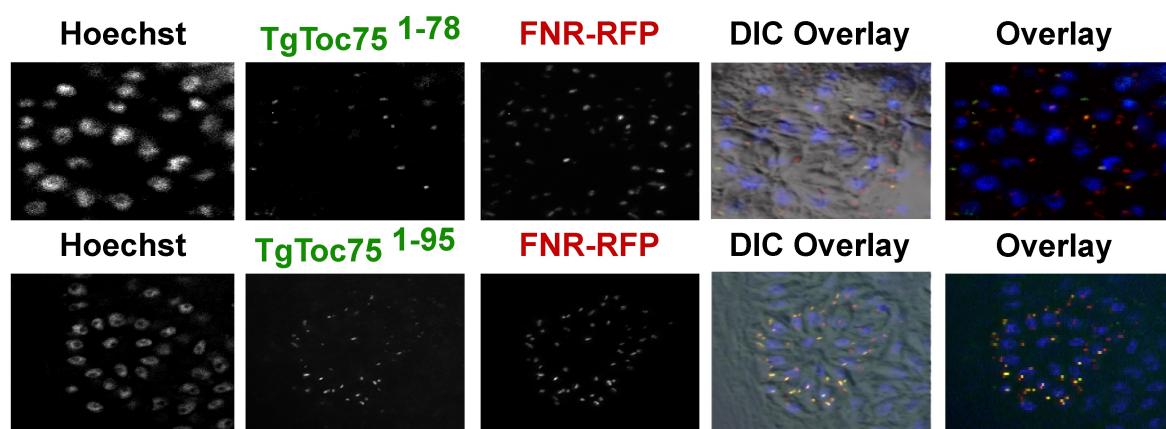


Figure S3

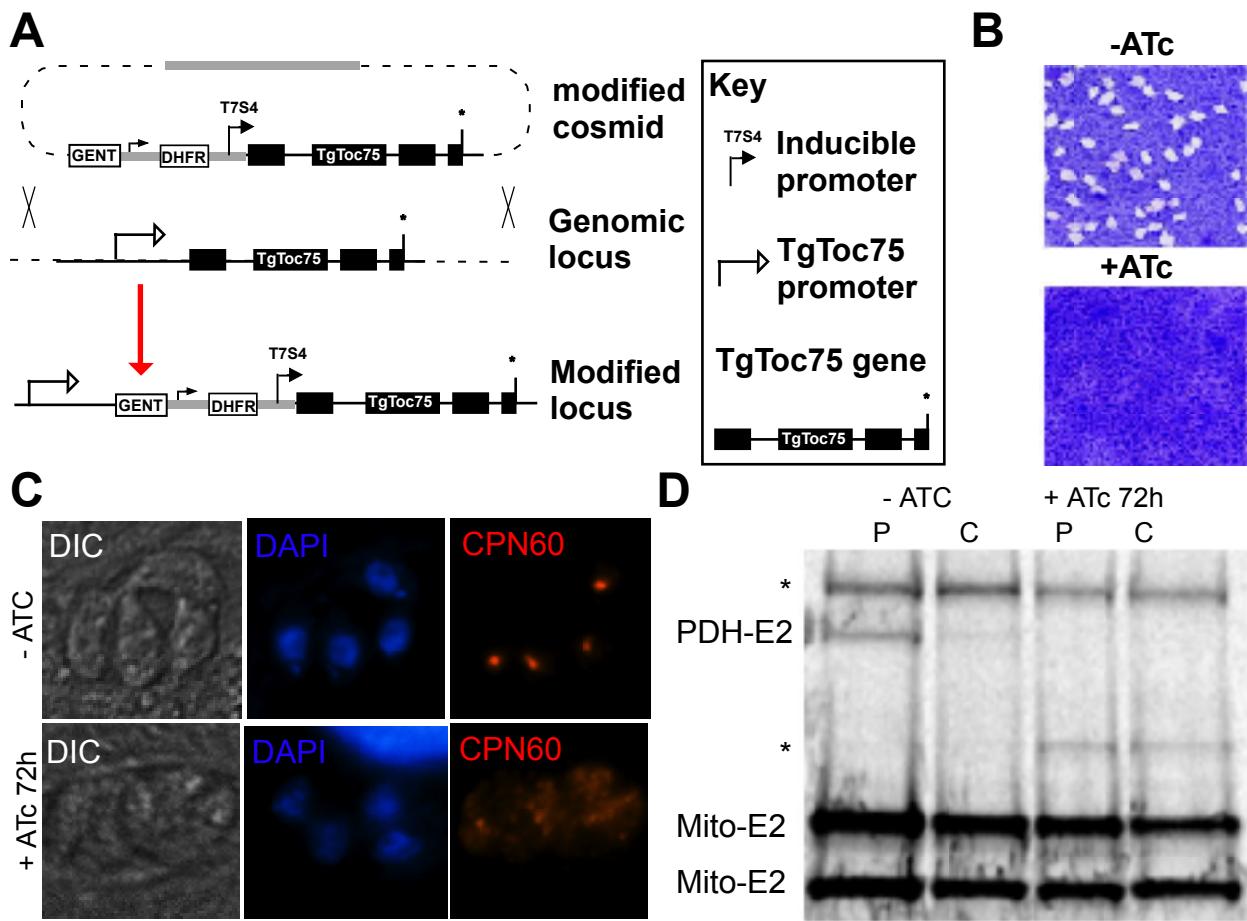


Table 1

	Toc75	SignalP	PlasmoAP	PATS	Sam50	MitoProt	PlasMit
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	*TGME49_072390	N	N	N	TGME49_205570	N	N
<i>Neospora caninum</i>	NCLIV_034910	N	N	N	NCLIV_020120	N	Y
<i>Eimeria falciformis</i>	EfaB_MINUS_25052.g2122	N	N	N	NF	-	-
<i>Eimeria praecox</i>	EPH_0025670	Y	N	N	NF	-	-
<i>Eimeria necatrix</i>	ENH_00027930	N	N	n	ENH_00075630	N	N
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	PF3D7_1234600	Y	Y	Y	*PFF0410w	N	Y
<i>Plasmodium chabaudi</i>	PCHAS_145150	N	Y	Y	PCHAS_010750	N	Y
<i>Plasmodium berghei</i>	PBANKA_144920	N	Y	Y	PBANKA_010690	N	Y
<i>Plasmodium yoelii</i>	PY17X_1451700	N	Y	Y	PY17X_0108400	N	Y
<i>Plasmodium cynomolgi</i>	PCYB_146020	N	N	N	PCYB_114820	N	Y
<i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i>	PKH_145170	Y	Y	N	PKH_114100	N	Y
<i>Plasmodium vivax</i>	PVX_100680	Y	Y	Y	PVX_113574	N	N
<i>Theileria equi</i>	NF	-	-	-	BEWA_051860	N	N
<i>Babesia bovis</i>	NF	-	-	-	BBOV_III000300	N	N

* Newer gene model does not agree with our experimental data. See GeneBank accession numbers: TgToc75 KT271755, PfSam50 KT271756

Table S1

Localization	Name	GeneID	SignalP4.1						SignalP3.0					
			C-Score	Y-Score	S-Score	D-Score	SP?	AA at +1	C-Score	Y-Score	S-Score (max)	D-Score	SP?	AA at +1
PPC	PPP1	TGME49_287270	0.11	0.115	0.207	0.123	NO		0.043	0.056	0.269	0.103	NO	
PPC	ATrx2	TGME49_310770	0.198	0.303	0.709	0.369	YES	A	0.299	0.449	0.985	0.665	YES	A
PPC	TgApicE2	TGME49_295990	0.356	0.251	0.405	0.224	NO		0.294	0.405	0.993	0.500	YES	S
PPC	CDC48AP	TGME49_321640	0.356	0.251	0.405	0.224	NO		0.288	0.410	0.944	0.433	YES	V
PPC	TgApicE1	TGME49_314890	0.353	0.188	0.133	0.143	NO		0.200	0.033	0.165	0.089	NO	
PPC	Ubiquitin	TGME49_223125	0.137	0.145	0.215	0.149	NO		0.105	0.085	0.498	0.155	NO	
PPC	UDF1AP	TGME49_285700	0.128	0.136	0.195	0.137	NO		0.067	0.064	0.371	0.100	NO	
outermostmembrane	FtsH	TGME49_259260	0.112	0.12	0.147	0.124	NO		0.087	0.042	0.177	0.069	NO	
outermostmembrane	TGME49_201270	TGME49_201270	0.111	0.106	0.111	0.102	NO		0.034	0.017	0.060	0.017	NO	
outermostmembrane	ATrx1	TGME49_312110	0.265	0.371	0.734	0.418	YES	V	0.370	0.490	0.890	0.468	YES	V
outermostmembrane	APT	TGME49_261070	0.108	0.105	0.157	0.101	NO		0.063	0.044	0.306	0.074	NO	
second inner-most	Toc75/Omp85	TGME49_272390	0.209	0.242	0.685	0.352	YES	V	0.444	0.326	0.993	0.453	YES	V
Innermost	Tic20	TGME49_255370	0.611	0.753	0.99	0.849	YES	Q	0.633	0.701	0.989	0.815	YES	T
Innermost	Tic22	TGME49_286050	0.694	0.58	0.691	0.519	YES	L	0.740	0.755	0.919	0.735	YES	L
luminal	PDH E1b	TGME49_272290	0.415	0.608	0.963	0.77	YES	S	0.539	0.442	0.967	0.653	YES	L
luminal	FabH	TGME49_231890	0.118	0.121	0.157	0.119	NO		0.072	0.073	0.409	0.124	NO	
luminal	PDH E2	TGME49_206610	0.524	0.662	0.961	0.754	YES	Q	0.599	0.625	0.961	0.740	YES	L
luminal	PGKII	TGME49_225990	0.129	0.15	0.279	0.149	NO		0.124	0.080	0.846	0.127	NO	
luminal	FabD	TGME49_225990	0.379	0.37	0.53	0.391	YES	P	0.532	0.530	0.885	0.586	YES	V
luminal	PDH E3	TGME49_305980	0.125	0.23	0.56	0.312	NO		0.127	0.192	0.924	0.495	YES	R
luminal	GyraseB	TGME49_297780	0.109	0.117	0.137	0.117	NO		0.030	0.039	0.310	0.130	NO	
luminal	GyraseA	TGME49_221330	0.609	0.693	0.956	0.763	YES	R	0.679	0.614	0.927	0.069	YES	R
luminal	FNR	TGME49_298990	0.198	0.262	0.641	0.321	NO		0.204	0.358	0.950	0.600	YES	V
luminal	ACP	TGME49_264080	0.47	0.629	0.929	0.744	YES	Y	0.628	0.678	0.970	0.715	YES	F
luminal	TGME49_239680	TGME49_239680	0.275	0.286	0.382	0.291	NO		0.647	0.379	0.985	0.525	YES	S
luminal	TPI-II	TGME49_233500	0.437	0.46	0.765	0.489	YES	F	0.236	0.320	0.913	0.401	YES	F
luminal	FabI	TGME49_251930	0.271	0.399	0.914	0.53	YES	F	0.470	0.402	0.974	0.522	YES	F
luminal	PYKII	TGME49_299070	0.12	0.112	0.132	0.114	NO		0.438	0.079	0.110	0.058	NO	
luminal	RP128	TGME49_209710	0.558	0.477	0.7	0.474	YES	F	0.937	0.707	0.958	0.753	YES	F
luminal	CPN60	TGME49_240600	0.139	0.192	0.349	0.224	NO		0.259	0.359	0.861	0.465	YES	F
luminal	ACC1	TGME49_221320	0.221	0.276	0.52	0.313	NO		0.533	0.446	0.748	0.493	YES	A
luminal	PDH Ea	TGME49_245670	0.128	0.151	0.254	0.148	NO		0.274	0.137	0.876	0.213	YES	P
luminal	ICDH2	TGME49_266760	0.822	0.736	0.892	0.699	YES	S	0.928	0.711	0.901	0.709	YES	R
luminal	YbaK	TGME49_255680	0.107	0.102	0.111	0.099	NO		0.027	0.022	0.072	0.039	NO	
luminal	UROD	TGME49_289940	0.116	0.114	0.163	0.111	NO		0.102	0.139	0.346	0.138	NO	
luminal	2-C-methyl-D-erythritol 2,4-cyclodiphosphate synthase domain-containing protein	TGME49_055690	0.503	0.653	0.944	0.654	YES	P	0.352	0.501	0.943	0.576	YES	S
luminal	Product: 1-deoxy-D-xylulose-5-phosphate synthase	TGME49_008820	0.11	0.107	0.13	0.106	NO		0.062	0.033	0.119	0.035	NO	
luminal	HU	TGME49_027970	0.235	0.468	0.968	0.72	YES	E	0.364	0.529	0.995	0.700	YES	E
luminal	LipB	TGME49_115640	0.14	0.145	0.34	0.192	NO		0.175	0.116	0.412	0.128	NO	
luminal	RNA helicase	TGME49_291670	0.387	0.497	0.95	0.678	YES	L	0.615	0.572	0.979	0.714	YES	V
luminal	hypothetical	TGME49_059230	0.708	0.556	0.712	0.467	YES	R	0.458	0.626	0.986	0.728	YES	H
luminal	hypothetical	TGME49_039320	0.112	0.132	0.207	0.143	NO		0.052	0.060	0.617	0.172	NO	
luminal	hypothetical	TGME49_039680	0.275	0.286	0.382	0.29	NO		0.647	0.379	0.985	0.525	YES	S
luminal	hypothetical	TGME49_002440	0.178	0.239	0.412	0.24	NO		0.126	0.296	0.947	0.391	YES	W
luminal	hypothetical	TGME49_001270	0.111	0.106	0.111	0.102	NO		0.034	0.017	0.060	0.017	NO	
luminal	NFU	TGME49_021920	0.148	0.222	0.482	0.218	NO		0.415	0.282	0.902	0.338	YES	H
luminal	DNAAdDNAh	TGME49_008840	0.111	0.11	0.134	0.104	NO		0.055	0.054	0.527	0.291	NO	

Table S2 - primers used in this study

Primer name	Primer sequence	Purpose
TgToc75_EcoRI_F	CCGAATTCA TGCGGGAGGAAGAAAGAC C	Forward to amplify TgToc75 ⁷⁸ for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgToc75_78_Nsil_R	CCATGCATAAGAAA ACTGGAGAAGACCC	Reverse to amplify TgToc75 ⁷⁸ for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgToc75_95_Nsil_R	CCATGCATAAGAGGGGGCGGGGGTGC	Reverse to amplify TgToc75 ⁹⁵ for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgToc75_277_Nsil_R	CCATGCATTCA CACGATATCCACGAAGGTACG	Reverse to amplify TgToc75 ²⁷⁷ for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgToc75_512_Nsil_R	CCATGCATAAA CTGCCTCGTCGTCGTCG	Reverse to amplify TgToc75 ⁵¹² for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgToc75_790_Nsil_R	CCATGCATAGCCTGCGAACGACGCC TC	Reverse to amplify TgToc75 ⁷⁹⁰ for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgToc75_FL_Nsil_R	CCATGCATTGAAGCTGTTGTCGCCACG	Reverse to amplify TgToc75 ^{full-HA/1y} for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgSam50_EcoRI_F	CCGAATTCA TGCGGGGTCA GCTCC	Forward to amplify TgSam50 ^{full-HA} for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
TgSam50_Nsil_R	GGATGCATACTACTCGGGGAGTCTCC	Forward to amplify TgSam50 ^{full-HA} for ectopic expression in <i>Toxoplasma</i>
PfOToc75_X_F	AACTCGAGATGAAAAATGTTTAAGAAAAATATA AC	Forward to amplify PfToc75 ⁷⁸ for ectopic expression in <i>Plasmodium</i>
PfToc75_78_A_R	GGCCTAGGTCTGTTAGCTTATTCCATAATTC	Reverse to amplify PfToc75 ⁷⁸ for ectopic expression in <i>Plasmodium</i>
PfSam50_X_F	CTCGAGATGTTAATTATTTTAAGAAGC	Forward to amplify PfSam50 ^N for ectopic expression in <i>Plasmodium</i>
PfSam50_60_A_R	AACCTAGGTAA ACAAAAATGCTCCAAAATA TGG	Reverse to amplify PfSam50 ^N for ectopic expression in <i>Plasmodium</i>
PfOmp85_95_A_R	GGCCTAGGTCTGTTCTCATTTC TGTTCC	Reverse to amplify PfToc ⁹⁵ for ectopic expression in <i>Plasmodium</i>
Toc75prorepcosf	GTATGCACATGTC CTCTTC TGAATCTTC CGCATGAGAAG CAATGCTCCATGAATGGTAACCGACAA ACGCGTTC	Cosmid recombineering to create promoter replacement vector.
Toc75prorepcosr	AGTCCACGACT CAAAGAGCGAACAGTGTGTTCTACGGT CGCTCAACG TAGATCTGGTTGAAGACAGACGAAAGC	Cosmid recombineering to create promoter replacement vector.
toc75cosproinserf	ACGTTGAGCGACC TAGAAACACACGTTCGCTTTGA GTCGTGACTGAATG TAAACCGACAAACGCGTTC	Cosmid recombineering to create promoter insertion vector.
toc75cosprionsrev	ATTGAACACCGCCCGCTGGCAGATGCCTGCTTTCTT CTT CCTCCGCCATT TTAGATCTGGTTGAAGACAGACGAAAGC	Cosmid recombineering to create promoter insertion vector.
HA_Nsil_F	CCATGCATTACCGTACGAC	Primer to amplify 3xHA tag
HA_PacI_R	GGTTAATTAA TAGAGCTCGGC	Primer to amplify 3xHA tag
Apg-qPCR-F	TCTATTGCA ATGGAAAAAGGTATG	qPCR to score apicoplast genome
Apg-qPCR-R	TCAATGGTAGC AAAGGACTG	qPCR to score apicoplast genome
UPRT-qPCR-F	ACTGCGAC GACATACTGGAGAAC	qPCR to score nuclear genome
UPRT-qPCR-R	AAGAAAACA AGCGGAACAAACAA	qPCR to score nuclear genome
ACP _{F/A} mutF	CTGATCAGGC CTGGTGACACAGCACCGTAGGAAGAACAA TGG	Mutagenesis of F at position +1 of ACP to A
ACP _{F/A} mutR	CCATTGCTTCTCCTACGGT GCTGTGTCACCAGGCCTGAT CAG	Mutagenesis of F at position +1 of ACP to A
ACP _{Y/A} mutF	CCTGGT GACACAAAACCGGCGGAAGAACATGGATG	Mutagenesis of Y at alternative position +1 of ACP to A
ACP _{Y/A} mutR	CATCCATTGCTTCTCC GCCGGTTTGTCACCAGG	Mutagenesis of Y at alternative position +1 of ACP to A